



News and Views From The Gardens

Spring 2021

Civitati Faventes Horti

Volume 24, Issue 1

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Volunteer Opportunities with NPBGS

Looking for some fun activities during summer 2021?

Consider volunteering at the Northern Plains Botanic Gardens, 28th Ave. N. and N. University in Fargo. Play a vital role in the continued growth and development of the Society.

Opportunities include:

- Gardening
- Special Events
- Construction/Maintenance
- Office Assistance
- Serving on Committees

Visit our website to request that someone contact you. Join our fun volunteers; make some new friends!

Garden tasks this season include:

- Clean out the flower beds in April
- Transplant seedlings in April
- Plant annuals in late May
- Revitalize the Woodland Garden: digging, planting, trimming

Interested? Contact Ruth Morton, mortonrr@gmail.com.

Work days Mon. & Thur. 8:00 am—2:00 pm.
No knowledge of gardening is required.
Tools and gloves are available at the gardens, or bring your own favorites.

Spring Plant Sale!

Saturday May 15
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
NPBGS Greenhouse
1201 28th Ave. N
Fargo

Annuals
Perennials
Herbs
Fruits

Masks Required



West Acres
Spring Changes

**Northern Plains
Botanic Garden Society
Newsletter**

Ruth Morton, Editor

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Board of Directors

Jerry Raguse, President
Joshua Cook, Vice President
Teresa Jesten, Secretary
Mary Beyer, Treasurer
Marissa Gapp
Ann Riley
Matt Sorenson
Barbara Villella

**Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society's
mission is to establish and operate a
regional botanic garden, conservatory
and arboretum in Fargo.**

Donations

Bell Bank
Patricia Belknap
Mary Beyer through Microsoft
William Bleier
Keith Burck
Susan Bennet Coyne
Vicky Dawson
Maurice DeGrugillier
Fine Arts Club—Garden Section
Marilyn Hanson
Dale & Ruth Herman
Joan Horn
John Kaese through Burlington Northern
John & Ann Kaese
Michelle Kliem
Ryan Kliem
Mary Leff
Marlene Maxon
Judy Maxson
Kathleen Neugebauer
John & Linda Schultz
Davis Scott
John Zvirovski

Special Donation: Refrigerator from Bell Bank,
initiated by Marilyn West

Memorials

Thomas & Ann Riley, for Kirsten Riley
Stacey & Wesley Griggs, for Nancy Erickson

Board Notes

Annual Meeting Highlights

This year our annual Board Meeting was held by Zoom, which made it quite unique. There was no speaker, just a business meeting and an opportunity for questions and answers. No new board members were elected, several members renewed for another term and Ruth Morton retired from the Board and the Treasurer position. Mary Beyer was elected as Treasurer. Jim Walla received the Volunteer of the Year award, especially for his work on the Edible Forest. President Jerry Raguse briefly reviewed our successful gardening year, with new accessible paths, Fairy Garden relocation and Dry Garden progress. Flower and jelly sales were successful at the West Acres Farmers Market. The Society will be working with NDSU Landscape Architecture students on a new Master Plan for the gardens.

Members: Consider applying for a Board position!

Volunteer of the Year, Jim Walla



Thank you! I was speechless when it was announced at the annual meeting that I was selected as the volunteer of the year. Ann Riley had earlier asked me about volunteer hours, but I'm too naïve to have made the connection. Being rewarded as such for my work in the Edible Forest is like rewarding a kid for going into a candy store. It's a labor of love. I have spent a lot of time with it, and so have many others, and that effort has resulted in what we have – the start of another great garden. I am so happy to be part of what the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society is accomplishing.

Jim Walla

Garden Notes

The Japanese Garden

The garden of **Body, Mind and Soul** is awakening. The addition of the lantern in front of the gate is a gift from Jim Anderson. Another wonderful gift is from Davis Scott. He has pledged to support us in finishing the path to the gate with flagstones and special gravel for the two dry ponds along 28th Avenue N. This memorial is for his wife, Hazel Moritz Scott. Mrs. Scott was a professor of Speech and Director of Forensics at Moorhead State University. She was very fond of Japanese gardens. We appreciate this generous gift in her memory.

Daniel Hirshberg, PhD. in Contemplative Studies wrote in the *Journal of the North American Japanese Garden Association*:

"The past fifteen years Contemplative Studies has emerged as one of the most exciting new fields in interdisciplinary learning."

Our garden will be growing along with the changes in education, humanities and sciences to come. It will remain a place of experiential observation for the body, mind and soul.

These gifts from our members enable us to move towards our goals. This summer we are moving dirt and doing the beginning stages of contouring. Vern Hunter will continue to perfect the entrance by the Japanese gate. We are grateful for his understanding of the Japanese style.

Ad Hoc Committee:
Mary Beyer, Vern Hunter,
Minamme Klinkhammer,
Lisa Sluke, Marilyn West



Lantern donated by Jim Anderson

What's Going On With the Edible Forest?

It looks like the plants came through the winter in good condition, although, with so many planted in 2020, a few not budding out this spring would be expected. No winter rabbit or vole damage happened, although some small plants were chewed down late last summer by rabbits – they should still grow. Buds are beginning to swell on some of the branches. That's always fun to see, but a bit of a concern this early in the season.

Plantings this spring will include SnowSweet apple, Brookcot apricot, Meader persimmon, Luvall's Monster hybrid chestnut, Burton hican, Weschcke hickory, White Cherry white currant, Cascade red currant, Indigo Gem honeyberry, Cinderella honeyberry, Blue Banana honeyberry, Honey Delight honeyberry, HoneyQueen yellow raspberry, and Petite Jewell seedless grape. A Mountain-Frost pear tree will be planted as a base tree for developing a multi-variety pear tree via top-work grafting. Cornelian cherries and Trollhaugen seedless grape will be propagated for planting later this summer. Most of these were sold out last year. A few are replacements, and a few are additions.

The plants are still very young, so to encourage enough foliage to feed the roots, little pruning will be done this year. The exceptions are the raspberries (spent canes will be removed and long canes on the purple raspberries will be pruned back) and some grapes (pruning to train double stems onto a trellis system). If there is interest in a demo or participation in either of these, let me know. Supports for raspberries, blackberries, and grapes will be installed this spring.

The Edible Forest was one of two main topics of an online presentation April 2 (the other being the new Food Forest being planted in Moorhead). The program, centered on Food Forests, was organized by Food of the North. Each speaker shared a brief presentation (~5 minutes), with the bulk of the program for Q & A. You can watch the recorded video at < <http://foodofthenorth.com/fridayfoodspeakers>>.

Tours will begin late May and will be announced on the NPBGS Facebook page. There will be a sign-up for tours . It takes about 1.5 hours for either the outer circle of trees or the inner circle of shrubs. Separate tours will be offered for each. Contact me at northerntrees@outlook.com for special group tours.

Jim Walla



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Remember to Recycle

Remember to recycle your empty aluminum cans. Take them to the Minnkota Recycling Center at 809 Fourth Avenue N, Fargo and request that a donation be made to NPBGS. In the past, the Society has received over \$100 through this recycling effort.

Every little bit helps!



Spring Change-out
at West Acres